

Joint Meeting of the
IOWA MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION
and the
IOWA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL
October 20, 2016, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Polk County River Place, Room 1
2309 Euclid Ave, Des Moines, Iowa
MEETING MINUTES

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Broeker	Geoffrey Lauer
Jody Eaton	John Parmeter
Marsha Edgington	Rebecca Peterson
Lynn Grobe	Michael Polich
Kathryn Johnson (phone)	Patrick Schmitz
Betty King (phone)	Rebecca Schmitz
Sharon Lambert	Marilyn Seemann

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Thomas Bouska	Senator Liz Mathis
Senator Mark Costello	Brett McLain
Representative David Heaton	Jennifer Sheehan
Representative Lisa Heddens	

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kenneth Briggs Jr.	Jim Rixner
Jim Cornick	Lee Ann Russo (phone)
Jim Donoghue	Christina Schark
Kris Graves	Dennis Sharp
Sharon Lambert (phone)	DJ Swope
Brenda Lechner	Michele Tilotta
LeAnn Moskowitz	Tracy White
Todd Noack	Kimberly Wilson (phone)
Donna Richard-Langer	

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Teresa Bomhoff	Amber Lewis
Jim Chesnik	Craig Matzke
Kathleen Goines	Tammy Nyden
Julie Kalambokidis	Carole Police
Michael Kaufmann	Brad Richardson
Gary Keller	Rhonda Shouse
Anna Killpack	Jennifer Vitko
Todd Lange	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Barb Anderson	Department of Education
Theresa Armstrong	MHDS, Bureau Chief Community Services & Planning
Kris Bell	Iowa Senate Democrats Caucus Staff
Jess Benson	Legislative Services Agency
Judy Davis	Office of Consumer Affairs
Denise Juhl	Amerigroup
Linda Kellen	Department of Inspections and Appeals
Meghan Klier	Easter Seals of Iowa
Amy McCoy	Department of Human Services
Ellen Ritter	Heart of Iowa MHDS Region
Peter Schumacher	MHDS, Community Services & Planning/CDD

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

MHDS Commission Chair Patrick Schmitz and Mental Health Planning Council Vice Chair Ken Briggs called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Patrick Schmitz and Ken Briggs led introductions.

Discussion of Mental Health Redesign – Charles Palmer

Director Palmer thanked the Commission and the Planning Council for having him, and said he was here to share some early impressions on a report the Department will be submitting to the General Assembly at the end of this year.

Director Palmer spoke about the transition from county to regional management of mental health and disability services, and the difficulties with the funding structure. Director Palmer said that while preparing for the transition, there were people who wanted a centralized system, and others who wanted a county-based system. The central question became, “To what are all Iowans entitled? To what services should all Iowans have access?” At the time there were ninety-nine counties working in different ways with a lot of variance. Director Palmer said the MHDS Regions were formed, and Core Services were established as a statewide standard for service provision. Director Palmer spoke about the development of Core Plus services in MHDS Regions like mental health crisis and jail diversion programs.

Director Palmer spoke about the funding of MHDS Regions and the challenges under the current policy.

Director Palmer said there has been development on a children’s system as well. The Children’s Mental Health and Well-Being Workgroup has defined a set of core services, and is bringing stakeholders together to discuss the organization of a children’s system.

Jim Rixner asked Director Palmer about the MHDS Regions and how some of them are considering reducing taxes rather than offering more expansive services. Director Palmer answered that some Regions are looking to expand services, some Regions are not able to at this time.

Jim Rixner said Iowa does not have a public/private partnership which would be very helpful to providing quality services to care for the whole person, and asked about the connections between mental health and the criminal justice system. Jim said we need to find a way to better

serve people with mental illness without charging them. Director Palmer thanked Jim for his questions, and said population health will help with public/private partnerships as they will encourage collaboration between stakeholders to look after the whole population. Director Palmer said there is a workforce shortage across the state and that contributes to many other issues in the mental health system. Director Palmer mentioned the work of Teresa Bomhoff and praised her for advocating for mental health workforce policies.

Ken Briggs asked about schools' ability to handle children with mental health needs with their limited resources. Director Palmer answered that there are limited resources all across the mental health system, and it is exacerbated with children.

Geoff Lauer thanked Director Palmer for coming and mentioned that a theme in the disability advocacy world has been who decides and who pays. Geoff asked about the next steps in the MHDS redesign effort. Director Palmer answered that there would have to be a strong push from a local base who is willing to work within a more central system. Director Palmer said Iowa moves incrementally and has a history of local control. Geoff asked if that vision of more central control was supported within the administration. Director Palmer answered that Iowa moves incrementally, and that the administration will respond to the questions that are presented.

Jim Cornick said that 40% of the people in Polk County jail have mental illness, and has been working with the same funding since 1996 even though there are 110,000 more people in Polk County than there were in 1996. Director Palmer said Polk County is not alone in that challenge and that Eastern Iowa MHDS also received funding from the General Assembly.

MHDS Update – Theresa Armstrong and Rick Shults

Theresa Armstrong the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) have all been selected and that Iowa has received a no-cost extension to finish certifying the clinics. The extension will be used to continue providing technical assistance and explore the fidelity measures on the evidence-based practices under the grant. The announcement on whether Iowa will receive a demonstration grant will be made in December.

Theresa spoke about the Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Workgroup. The children's mental health crisis services planning grants were awarded to Seasons Center in Spencer and YSS in the Mason City area. The grantees for the children's well-being learning labs are Four Oaks in Cedar Rapids and the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Rick Shults announced that Gary Anders is retiring from his position as the superintendent at Glenwood Resource Center. There will be a transition process and Rick said he will begin a nationwide search for a new superintendent immediately.

Jim Donoghue asked about the learning labs. Theresa answered that they would be delivering services, but the initiative is more about the connections and collaborations between multiple systems like education, juvenile justice, and child welfare.

Jim Cornick asked about mental health training in schools. Jim Donoghue answered that there is training available for teachers and resources available to schools through Area Education Agencies. Barb Anderson said there are Challenging Behavior Teams that can assist with these challenges. Barb also spoke about Project AWARE and the mental health first aid training that is done to help teachers identify warning signs in students and taking the next steps. Rick Shults said one of the key issues is that serious emotional disturbances tend to reveal themselves slowly over time, and it's difficult to identify is at a specific time.

Discussion of Legislative Recommendations for 2017

Sharon Lambert presented a list of legislative priorities that were approved in September. The priorities included sustainable funding for MHDS Regions, investing in mental health workforce, funding for a children's mental health system, and developing capacity for mental health treatment outside of jails and the corrections system.

Geoff Lauer presented the Commission's draft legislative priorities which include sustainable funding for MHDS Regions, preventing a shifting in responsibility from Medicaid MCOs to MHDS Regions, coordination between the oral health component of the Medicaid program and the medical and mental health components, eliminating the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver waiting list, developing a children's mental health system, a workforce development program for mental health providers.

Jim Rixner said he was supportive of the legislative priorities, but that he wanted to add adequate reimbursement rates for providers.

Sharon Lambert spoke about her wish to see a workgroup on the use of isolation on people with mental health needs in prisons or jails. Rick said the Department, the Medicaid MCOs, and MHDS Regions are all having conversations about building capacity to serve individuals who have complex needs in the community. Rick said they have seen some isolated successes, but want to make those successes systemic.

Jim Rixner said one of the Planning Council's other priorities was to form a bipartisan mental health caucus in the Iowa General Assembly. Becky Schmitz said there used to be a workgroup in the General Assembly that would work on regionalization.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peter Schumacher.